1. A transmitter, for transmitting an intermittent sequence of messages to maintain synchronisation between the transmitter and at least one receiver, comprising:

control means arranged to provide messages for transmission, each of said messages forming part of said sequence of messages and comprising control information for effecting synchronisation, including timing information, wherein said timing information is dependent upon when the transmission of a following message in the sequence occurs; and

transmission means, responsive to said control means, for transmitting each of said messages.

2. A transmitter as claimed in claim 1 wherein said timing information is indicative, to a receiver, of the period of time between the transmission of a message containing that timing information and the transmission of a following message in the sequence.

3. A transmitter as claimed in claim 1 wherein said timing information comprises the value of the period of time between the transmission of a message containing that timing information and the transmission of said following message in the sequence.

4. A transmitter as claimed in claim 1 wherein said timing information comprises the value of the period of time between the transmission of a message containing that timing information and the transmission of the following message in the sequence compared to the period of time between the transmission of the message containing that timing information and the transmission of a preceding message in the sequence.

5. A transmitter as claimed in claim 1 wherein said following message is the next message in the sequence.

6. A transmitter as claimed in claim 5, wherein said preceding message is the directly preceding message.

7. A transmitter as claimed in claim 1 wherein said sequence of messages comprises a sequence of groups of messages each of said groups of messages comprising a plurality of messages in series.

8. A transmitter as claimed in claim 7 wherein said following message is a message in a following group.

9. A transmitter as claimed in claim 8 wherein said following group is the next group.

10. A transmitter or receiver as claimed in claim 7 wherein said preceding message is a message in a preceding group.

11. A transmitter as claimed in claim 12 wherein said preceding group is the directly preceding group.

12. A transmitter as claimed in claim 1 wherein said control information identifies the receiver.

13. A transmitter as claimed in claim 1 wherein said control information identifies the messages as broadcasted messages.

14. A transmitter as claimed in claim 1 wherein said control information comprises a sequence for correlation by the receiver.

15. A transmitter as claimed in claim 8 wherein said control information comprises a value identifying the number of messages in the following group.

16. A transmitter as claimed in claim 8, wherein said control information comprises a value identifying the time between messages in the following group.

17. A transmitter as claimed in claim 9 wherein said control means in arranged to vary the time between the transmission of a pair of successive groups of messages by an amount such that there is coincidence between the time of transmission of a message in the following group of the pair and the expected time of transmission, in the absence of a variation, of a message in the following group.

18. A transmitter as claimed in claim 19 wherein for said pair of successive groups, said series of messages within each of said pair of groups are separated by equal time intervals.

19. A transceiver comprising a transmitter as claimed in claim 1.

20. A computer comprising a transmitter as claimed in claim 1.

21. A mobile communications device comprising a transmitter as claimed in claim 1.

22. An accessory for a mobile communications device comprising a transmitter as claimed in claim 1.

23. A communication network comprising transceivers as claimed in claim 19.

24. A transmitter, for transmitting an intermittent sequence of messages to maintain synchronisation between the transmitter and at least one receiver, comprising:

a controller arranged to provide messages for transmission, each of said messages forming part of said sequence of messages and comprising control information for effecting synchronisation, including timing information, wherein said timing information is dependent upon when the transmission of a following message in the sequence occurs; and

a transmitter, responsive to said controller, for transmitting each of said messages.

25. A receiver, for synchronising with a sequence of transmitted messages each comprising control information including timing information, comprising:

control means arranged to control the operation of the receiver in dependence on received ones of the transmitted messages;

a clock for providing a time reference to the control means; and

receiver and synchronisation means responsive, when enabled, to the control information in a received message to indicate to the control means the reception of said message,

wherein said control means is arranged to disable said receiver and synchronisation means for a period of time dependent upon the timing information in said received message and to enable said receiver and synchronisation means to receive a following message in the sequence.

26. A receiver as claimed in claim 25, wherein said sequence of messages comprises a sequence of groups of messages each of said groups of messages comprising a plurality of messages in series.

27. A receiver as claimed in claim 26 wherein said following message is a message in a following group.

28. A receiver as claimed in claim 27 wherein said following group is the next group.

29. A receiver as claimed in claim 25 wherein said control information comprises a value identifying the number of messages in the following group

30. A receiver as claimed bin claim 25, wherein said control information comprises a value identifying the time between messages in the following group.

31. A receiver as claimed in claim 25 wherein said timing information comprises the value of the period of time between the transmission of a message containing that timing information and the transmission of said following message in the sequence.

32. A receiver as claimed in claim 25 wherein said timing information comprises the value of the period of time between the transmission of a message containing that timing information and the transmission of the following message in the sequence compared to the period of time between the transmission of the message containing that timing information and the transmission of a preceding message in the sequence.

33. A receiver as claimed in claim 32 wherein said preceding message is a message in a preceding group.

34. A receiver as claimed in claim 33 wherein said preceding group is the directly preceding group.

35. A receiver as claimed in claim 25 wherein said control means enables said receiver and synchronisation means, to receive a following packet in the sequence, for a predetermined duration.

36. A receiver as claimed in claim 35 wherein said control means in the absence of an indication from the receiving and synchronising means that a message has been received, re-enables said receiver and synchronisation means, to receive said following packet.

37. A receiver as claimed in claim 36 wherein said re-enablement is controlled for reception of the messages in the following group.

38. A receiver as claimed in claim 37 wherein said control means re-enablement is intermittent, the interval between enablement depending upon the time between messages in the group.

39. A receiver as claimed in claim 25 wherein said control means is arranged to compare the expected time of arrival of a message, provided by the timing information in a preceding received message, with the actual time of arrival of the message as indicated to the control means by the reception and synchronisation means, and to offset said time reference provided by the clock in dependence on said comparison.

40. A transceiver comprising a receiver as claimed in claim 25.

41. A computer comprising a receiver as claimed in claim 25.

42. A mobile communications device comprising a receiver as claimed in claim 25.

43. An accessory for a mobile communications device comprising a receiver as claimed in claim 25.

44. A communication network comprising transceivers as claimed in claim 40.

45. A receiver, for synchronising with a sequence of transmitted messages each comprising control information including timing information, comprising:
a controller arranged to control the operation of the receiver in dependence on received ones of the transmitted messages;
a clock for providing a time reference to the control means; and
a receiver including synchronisation circuitry, responsive, when enabled, to the control information in a received message to indicate to the controller means the reception of said message,
wherein said controller is arranged to disable said receiver for a period of time dependent upon the timing information in said received message and to enable said receiver to receive a following message in the sequence.

46. A receiver, for synchronising with a sequence of transmitted messages each comprising control information including timing information, comprising:
control means arranged to control the operation of the receiver in dependence on received ones of said transmitted messages;
a clock for providing a time reference to the control means; and
receiver and synchronisation means responsive to the control information in a received message to indicate to the control means the reception of said message,
wherein said control means is arranged to enable power conservation within the receiver for a period of time dependent upon the timing information in said

received message, said period of time being such that power conservation is disabled to receive a following message in the sequence.

47. A receiver as claimed in claim 46, wherein said sequence of messages comprises a sequence of groups of messages each of said groups of messages comprising a plurality of messages in series.

48. A receiver as claimed in claim 47 wherein said following message is a message in a following group.

49. A receiver as claimed in claim 48 wherein said following group is the next group.

50. A receiver as claimed in claim 46 wherein said control information comprises a value identifying the number of messages in the following group

51. A receiver as claimed bin claim 46, wherein said control information comprises a value identifying the time between messages in the following group.

52. A receiver as claimed in claim 46 wherein said timing information comprises the value of the period of time between the transmission of a message containing that timing information and the transmission of said following message in the sequence.

53. A receiver as claimed in claim 46 wherein said timing information comprises the value of the period of time between the transmission of a message containing that timing information and the transmission of the following message in the sequence compared to the period of time

between the transmission of the message containing that timing information and the transmission of a preceding message in the sequence.

54. A receiver as claimed in claim 53 wherein said preceding message is a message in a preceding group.

55. A receiver as claimed in claim 54 wherein said preceding group is the directly preceding group.

56. A receiver as claimed in claim 46 wherein said control means enables said receiver and synchronisation means, to receive a following packet in the sequence, for a predetermined duration.

57. A receiver as claimed in claim 46 wherein said control means in the absence of an indication from the receiving and synchronising means that a message has been received, re-enables said receiver and synchronisation means, to receive said following packet.

58. A receiver as claimed in claim 57 wherein said re-enablement is controlled for reception of the messages in the following group.

59. A receiver as claimed in claim 58 wherein said control means re-enablement is intermittent, the interval between enablement depending upon the time between messages in the group.

60. A receiver as claimed in claim 46 wherein said control means is arranged to compare the expected time of arrival of a message, provided by the timing information in a preceding received message, with the actual time of arrival of the message as indicated to the control means by the reception

and synchronisation means, and to offset said time reference provided by the clock in dependence on said comparison.

61. A transceiver comprising a receiver as claimed in claim 46.

62. A computer comprising a receiver as claimed in claim 46.

63. A mobile communications device comprising a receiver as claimed in claim 46.

64. An accessory for a mobile communications device comprising a receiver as claimed in claim 46.

65. A communication network comprising transceivers as claimed in claim 61.

66. A receiver, for synchronising with a sequence of transmitted messages each comprising control information including timing information, comprising:
a controller arranged to control the operation of the receiver in dependence on received ones of said transmitted messages;
a clock for providing a time reference to the control means; and
a receiver including synchronisation circuitry, responsive to the control information in a received message to indicate to the controller the reception of said message,
wherein said controller is arranged to enable power conservation within the receiver for a period of time dependent upon the timing information in said received message, said period of time being such that power conservation is disabled to receive a following message in the sequence.

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